

## PAROLE SUPERVISION

- ◇ Parolees are released subject to several parole conditions which govern their behavior and which, if violated, will constitute grounds for revocation of the parole and return to prison. Typical conditions include compliance with all laws, regular reporting to an Agent, abstinence from alcohol and drugs, urinalysis and breath testing, engagement in treatment programs, payment of restitution, special conditions for sex offenders, and other special conditions in particular cases.
- ◇ Parolees are supervised by Agents of the Wyoming Department of Corrections. The Agents provide guidance to the parolees in the steps necessary for successful reentry, including employment, housing and required treatment or other programs, and monitor compliance with parole conditions through community contacts and office and home visits. When parole violations occur, Agents may structure additional conditions or, in appropriate cases, refer the case to the Board for revocation proceedings. Agents have authority to have parolees immediately arrested when behaviors threaten the public's or the parolee's safety. Agents provide regular reports to the Board of all significant violations.
- ◇ Parolees who are revoked do not receive credit off their sentence for time spent on parole, unless it is granted by the Board. They may spend the rest of their maximum sentence in prison or may be paroled by the Board.
- ◇ Successful parolees are discharged from parole when they complete their maximum sentence as reduced by good time credits while incarcerated.

## VICTIM RESTITUTION

- ◇ The Board always requires repayment of restitution as a condition of parole. Sometimes the Board requires payment of a set monthly amount or a percentage of monthly income, and in other cases, Agents will set a repayment amount.
- ◇ It is often not possible for the offender to pay the entire amount of restitution owed during the parole period. In the event the offender has made a reasonable effort to pay within his ability, and is near completion of the sentence, the Board may waive payment of restitution as a condition of parole and allow the sentence to expire. In such cases, certified victims are given prior notice and the opportunity to provide input to the Board. Parolees who willfully fail to pay restitution may be revoked by the Board.
- ◇ A waiver of restitution as a condition of parole does not mean the offender does not still owe the obligation to the victim. Under Wyoming Statute § 7-9-103 (d), the restitution order constitutes a civil judgment. At any time, the victim or the prosecutor may request the clerk of court where the order was made to issue execution (for seizure of money or property, garnishment of wages, etc.) in the same manner as in a civil action.

## VICTIM NOTIFICATION

- ◇ All identified victims of an inmate's crime are notified in writing by the Board of their rights, under the Victims Bill of Rights, to be notified of various significant events involving the offender during his sentence. In order to receive continuing notification, victims must first complete a request form and have it certified by the District Attorney's Office or Prosecutor's Office where the conviction took place.
- ◇ Events reported by the Board include parole hearings, parole grants and conditions, rescissions and revocations of parole, pending commutations, waivers of restitution payment as a parole condition, absconsion from supervision, and discharge from parole.
- ◇ Notification about incarceration matters is separately provided by the Wyoming Department of Corrections.
- ◇ Certified victims are provided prior notice and the opportunity to provide input to the Board regarding parole and commutation hearings and consideration of waiving restitution.
- ◇ Certified victims may appear personally before the board prior to hearings. The Board has funds available to pay verified travel expenses for such appearances in the amount of up to \$250 per appearance. The Board will advise victims of other programs which may provide additional travel reimbursement.
- ◇ The identity of and information from victims is confidential and is not available to the public or to the offenders, and offenders are not informed of any victim input.

## VOTER RIGHTS RESTORATION

- ◇ Convicted felons with only one felony conviction (or more than one felony arising out of the same occurrence or course of events), for a non-violent crime, who have completed their sentences more than five (5) years ago, may have their voting rights restored by the Board.
- ◇ Individuals may apply by completing an application form and agreeing to a criminal history records check. Application forms may be obtained by visiting the Board's website at: [www.bop.state.wy.us](http://www.bop.state.wy.us)

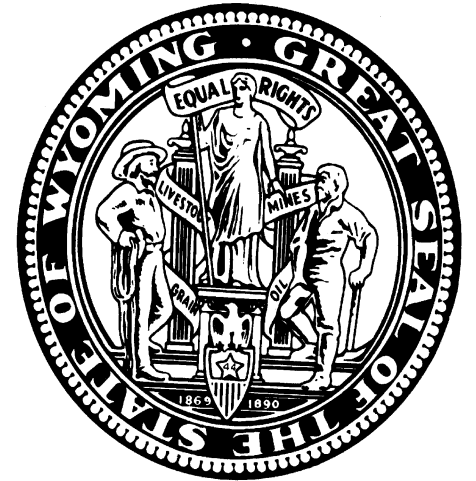
## QUESTIONS ABOUT OFFENDER STATUS

Confidentiality law prohibits the Board from disclosing information about offenders to persons who have not been certified as victims under the Victim Notification Program. However, the Department of Corrections, a separate agency, is statutorily authorized to provide the following information about offenders to the public: Name and other identifying information; photograph and physical description; conviction for which committed; sentencing information; projected parole eligibility and discharge dates; current location of supervision or custody and date of release from custody.

That information may be obtained by contacting:

Department of Corrections  
(307) 777-7405

## STATE OF WYOMING



## BOARD OF PAROLE

3120 Old Faithful Road, Suite 100  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: (307) 777-5444  
Fax: (307) 777-5386

### GENERAL PUBLIC INFORMATION

This pamphlet provides a brief overview of the sentencing system in Wyoming and the role of the Board of Parole in that system. Further information may be found in Wyoming Statutes §§7-13-401 through 421, and the Board of Parole Policy and Procedure Manual at [www.bop.state.wy.us](http://www.bop.state.wy.us)

# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Board is to conduct prompt, fair, impartial hearings on the matters brought to its attention and take appropriate action. Consideration will be given to public safety, victims and the treatment and control of the offender.

# ABOUT THE BOARD OF PAROLE

The Wyoming Board of Parole ("Board") is a separate operating agency of the State. The Board is comprised of seven citizens residing throughout the State who are appointed by the Governor to serve six year terms. Administrative and operational support is provided by staff located in Cheyenne, headed by an Executive Director who is appointed by the Board. Three-member hearing panels of the Board travel throughout the United States as needed to conduct inmate and parolee hearings, and conduct some hearings by telephone. The Board has jurisdiction only over felony offenders sentenced to incarceration in Wyoming Department of Corrections institutions.

## ***The primary decisions made by the Board include:***

- ◇ *Grants of parole releasing inmates to community supervision with conditions to protect public safety and promote rehabilitation or to consecutive sentences or sentences in other states.*
- ◇ *Revocations of parole based on violations of the conditions of parole.*
- ◇ *Recommendations to the Governor for grants of commutations (time cuts) of sentences.*
- ◇ *Removal and withholding of good time credits from inmates as a sanction for misbehavior or refusal to participate in rehabilitative programs.*
- ◇ *Restoration of voting rights to felons.*

# PAROLE ELIGIBILITY

- ◇ Inmates cannot be paroled by the Board until they become eligible under State law and Board rules.
- ◇ Most Wyoming inmates receive indeterminate sentences; that is, the sentence contains a minimum and a maximum. Completion of the minimum sentence determines when an inmate becomes eligible to be paroled, while the maximum sets the limit on how much time must be served either in prison or on parole.
- ◇ Both the minimum and the maximum sentences may be reduced by the earning of good time, which may be awarded by the Warden for good behavior while in the prison. Good time credits may reduce the minimum sentence by 1/3 and the maximum sentence by 1/4. Thus, the typical inmate becomes eligible for parole after serving 2/3's of the full minimum sentence. The Board has authority to remove or withhold good time credits off the maximum sentence for inmates who violate institutional rules or refuse to participate in rehabilitative programs recommended by the Court, Department of Corrections or Board.
- ◇ Inmates with life sentences are not eligible for parole and can only become eligible if the Governor commutes their sentences to a term of years with a minimum and a maximum, and they have served their minimum.
- ◇ Inmates who are sentenced to life without parole can not be paroled nor commuted and can never be released unless pardoned by the Governor.
- ◇ Similarly, inmates with the death penalty cannot be paroled.
- ◇ Inmates who commit an escape, attempted escape or assist in an escape, or who commit an assault with a deadly weapon on an inmate, officer or staff, are ineligible for parole on the sentence being served when that offense was committed.

# PAROLE HEARINGS

- ◇ Most inmates do not appear before the Board until they are within 120 days of their eligibility date.
- ◇ However, inmates with longer sentences will be seen by the Board further in advance of their eligibility date, to provide an opportunity for the Board to familiarize itself with the case and to consider the possibility of a commutation recommendation to the Governor.
- ◇ Thus, all inmates with less than 20 year minimums will see the Board after serving no more than 5 years and every year thereafter unless the hearing is waived.
- ◇ Inmates with minimums of more than 20 years see the Board after serving 7 years and every year thereafter, unless the hearing is waived.
- ◇ Inmates with life sentences see the Board after serving 10 years and every other year thereafter\*.

*\*Inmates sentenced to life prior to July 1990 may see the Board every year.*

# ATTENDANCE AT HEARINGS

- ◇ The Board's hearings are Executive Hearings; that is, they are not open to the general public, unless otherwise directed by the Board.
- ◇ Inmates may request the presence of family, friends or an attorney to provide pertinent information. Children under the age of 16 are not allowed to attend hearings.
- ◇ Certified victims are provided the opportunity to meet with the Board separately from the inmate hearing before the Board interviews the inmate.

# FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR PAROLE GRANTS AND COMMUTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◇ The primary considerations of the Board are public safety, victim concerns, and treatment and control of the offender. The ultimate goal is successful reentry of appropriate offenders into society while minimizing the risk of re-offending through appropriate treatment and supervision.
- ◇ Parole is granted only with the best interests of society being considered and not as an award of clemency. Evidence shows that public safety is better served if appropriate inmates serve a period of supervised release in the community rather than finishing their maximum sentence in prison and being released without supervision.
- ◇ The Board considers whether there is a reasonable probability that the inmate is able and willing to fulfill obligations as a law abiding citizen.
- ◇ The Board takes into account that sentences are usually imposed for the purposes of punishment, rehabilitation, general deterrence and removal from society.
- ◇ Factors reviewed to make these determinations include social background and history, criminal record, facts of the current offense and its continuing impact on victims, institutional behavior and rehabilitative efforts, medical and mental health issues and treatment needs, and suitability of proposed parole plans to assure successful reentry.
- ◇ Input from certified victims is always sought and considered prior to parole hearings.
- ◇ A commutation is a reduction of the sentence granted by the Governor pursuant to Constitutional clemency power. The Board may consider making commutation recommendations to the Governor. Typically, commutations are recommended in cases of inmates with longer sentences who have demonstrated sustained, extraordinary efforts to address their rehabilitative needs, or for inmates with terminal medical conditions whose medical needs can be best met outside of prison. The commutation process is usually initiated by the Warden of the institution.
- ◇ Input from certified victims, prosecutors and judges is always sought and considered before making commutation recommendations.